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FILED
AUG 7 9 2016
N.J. BOARD OF NURSING

By: Joshua M. Bengal Deputy Attorney General (973) 648-7457

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF:

Administrative Action

JOSEPHINE KEMOKAI, LPN License # 26NP05105200

CONSENT ORDER OF VOLUNTARY
SURRENDER OF LICENSE

TO PRACTICE AS A LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") upon receipt of information from Morris View Healthcare Center ("Morris View") indicating that Josephine Kemokai, LPN ("Respondent") resigned from her employment at Morris View after making multiple, significant medication errors involving narcotics. It was further alleged that while eile employed by Morris View, Respondent was disciplined 18 times, including seven instances of discipline since 2013, for failing to follow facility and state regulations regarding safe

medication administration and documentation. Finally, Morris View indicated that Respondent was suspected of diverting controlled dangerous substances ("CDS"). Respondent denied the significance of some of the medication errors and denied diverting CDS.

Based on the information provided, the Board referred Respondent in or around November 2015, to the Board's designated intervention program, the Recovery and Monitoring Program ("RAMP") for evaluation. Respondent failed to enter into a monitoring agreement offered to her by RAMP and failed to commence evaluation and monitoring. In or around January 2016, RAMP representatives informed Respondent that her failure to participate in RAMP would result in RAMP referring her back to the Board for potential further action. Respondent then indicated to RAMP that she intended to surrender her license rather than participate in evaluation and monitoring.

In addition to the above, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(b), nurses are required to complete a minimum of thirty (30) hours of continuing education during the preceding biennial period in order to renew their licenses. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(f), nurses are required to maintain documentation of completion of continuing education for a period of four years after completion, and shall submit such documentation to the

Board upon request. Respondent failed to demonstrate upon request by the Board that she completed the continuing education credits required for renewal during the biennial periods of June 1, 2011 to May 31, 2013, and June 1, 2013 to May 31, 2015. Such failure constitutes a violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(b), (f), and (j) which in turn subjects Respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and (h). Furthermore, Respondent submitted online biennial license renewal applications in 2013 and 2015 on which she indicated she was or would be timely compliant with the Board's continuing education requirements. Respondent's use of dishonesty and misrepresentation during the 2013 and 2015 license renewal processes constitutes violations of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b).

The Board having reviewed this matter, the parties desiring to resolve this matter without further proceedings, Respondent having waived any right to a hearing, the Board having determined that the within Order is sufficiently protective of the public, and for good cause shown;

IT IS on this day of HUGUST, 2016
HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED that:

1. Respondent hereby voluntarily surrenders her license to practice as a Licensed Practical Nurse in the State of New Jersey.

- 2. Respondent shall, contemporaneously with the signing of this Order, forward her nursing license, both wallet and wall versions, to the State Board of Nursing, Attention: Leslie Burgos, 124 Halsey Street, Sixth Floor, P.O. Box 45010, Newark, New Jersey 07101.
- 3. Respondent shall immediately cease and desist from holding herself out as a Licensed Practical Nurse in the State of New Jersey and shall refrain from the practice of nursing in the State of New Jersey. Any practice in this state prior to any reinstatement shall constitute grounds for a charge of unlicensed practice.
- 4. The Board will not entertain an application for reinstatement from Respondent unless and until Respondent successfully completes a Board-approved refresher course in Licensed Practiced Nursing, which shall have a clinical component which specifically includes appropriate practices in mediation administration and documentation. Prior to enrolling in and completing any such course, Respondent shall submit to Deborah Zuccarelli, State Board of Nursing, P.O. Box 45010, Newark, New Jersey, 07101, a written request for approval of the proposed course. Successful completion means that all sessions were attended, all assignments were properly and appropriately completed, and a passing grade was achieved which was

unconditional and without reservations.

- 5. The Board will also not entertain an application for reinstatement from Respondent unless and until Respondent completes a comprehensive substance abuse evaluation under the auspices of RAMP; demonstrates that she is fit and competent to practice nursing; demonstrates that she is in full compliance with any agreement with RAMP; demonstrates that RAMP supports her return to practice; answers all inquiries regarding her resignation from Morris View to the satisfaction of the Board; and is up-to-date with all applicable continuing education requirements.
- 6. The Board reserves the right to require Respondent to appear before the Board upon any request for reinstatement, and to impose other terms or restrictions upon any such request and/or reinstatement of her license.
- 7. Respondent is assessed a civil penalty in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500) as an aggregate penalty for failing to timely complete required continuing education and for misrepresentating on her license renewal applications in 2013 and 2015 that she had complied with such continuing education requirements. Payment of the \$500 civil penalty shall be stayed but will be immediately activated upon any application by Respondent for reinstatement of her license.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:

Patricia Murphy, PhD APN

Board President

I have read and understand the within Order and consent to the entry of the Order as a matter of public record. I understand that this Order has serious legal consequences. I have been given an opportunity to review this Order with legal counsel and have decided to enter into this Order without such counsel.

Josephine Kemokai, LPN License # 26NP05105200